



Professor Michael Arthur,  
President and Provost,  
UCL,  
Gower Street,  
London WC1E 6BT

15 June 2020

Dear Michael,

The Buildings Naming and Renaming Committee met this morning to consider two requests to dename the Galton Lecture Theatre and the Pearson Building and Lecture Theatre. I am writing to provide the committee's recommendation on both these requests.

The Committee was quorate and considered both recommendations against the UCL Policy on Naming or Renaming of University Buildings and Spaces, as approved by UCL Council on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018. In particular, the Committee held a detailed and thoughtful discussion concerning each of the recommendations against the five principles for removing a name or amending a name set out in paragraphs 15-19 of that document. The Committee considered all relevant evidence, including the work of the Inquiry into the History of Eugenics at UCL and the MORE Group Recommendations. There was unanimity on each of the consensus recommendations presented here.

The Committee recommends that removal of the names of the Galton Lecture Theatre, Pearson Building and Pearson Lecture Theatre as soon as practicable. The Committee found that each of the five principles for removing or amending a name were amply satisfied by the evidence that had been gathered. Names should be replaced as soon as alternate information and signs for navigation can be identified and delivered by the Estates team.

The Committee further recommends that the decision to remove the names of the Galton Lecture Theatre, Pearson Building and Pearson Lecture Theatre should be contextualized by the provision of a plaque or sign that communicates this decision and the reasons underlying it, linked where appropriate to other contextual material elsewhere in UCL or online. The Committee will set up a small subgroup to determine and approve, with appropriate consultation, relevant text. This process should not impede or prevent removal of the names in the meantime.

The Committee further recommends that consideration be given to the process that might underlie selection any future name for the building until now known as the Pearson Building. Members of the Committee felt that it would be desirable to consider any future names through a broad consultation with members of the UCL community in an open and transparent fashion. Committee members also recognized that a name that described the function of the building or a name that described its location might be considered as well as a name honoring particular individuals, groups or concepts. The Committee recommends consideration of the process by which such a broad consultation could take place, perhaps at a time when UCL staff and students return fully from remote working.

I am very grateful to the members of the Buildings Naming and Renaming Committee for their thoughtful deliberations and consensual discussion, and so am delighted to make these recommendations to you on behalf of the entire Committee.

Yours sincerely,

**Professor Geraint Rees FMedSci**  
Chair, UCL Buildings Naming and Renaming Committee  
Dean of the UCL Faculty of Life Sciences and UCL Pro-vice-Provost (AI)

Cc Clare Goudy, Chief of Staff, Office of the President and Provost